

Royle House CT-1297

9740 Old Solomons Island Road, Owings (Calvert County)

1920, private access

The Royle House (also known as the Eva Owings Prout Magruder Ward House) is located near the historic town center of Owings, a rural settlement in Calvert County. The house is set by the original alignment of Solomon's Island Road, and is proximate to other residences in Owings dating to the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The primary structure on the property, a one and a half story Craftsman-style bungalow, is set within a well-defined residential setting. Also located on the property is a small gabled garage. The Royle House is significant for its architecture as an example of a Craftsman-style bungalow in Calvert County. The bungalow is an early-twentieth century building type associated with early suburbanization. In addition, many bungalows similar to this building were constructed from plan books or mail order pre-cut house kits. The character of many rural communities was transformed by such standardized house designs. This site displays outbuildings and landscape features associated with its construction and period of significance. This building is also associated with both the Owings family and Dr. Hugh Ward, both of whom played important roles in local history.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1297

1. Name of Property

historic Royle House
other Eva Owings Prout Magruder Ward House

2. Location

street and number 9740 Old Solomons Island Road ___ not for publication
city, town Owings ___ vicinity
county Calvert

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maureen Royle
street and number PO Box 115 telephone 301.855.8623
city, town Owings state MD zip code 20736

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse liber ABE 237 folio 218
city, town Prince Frederick tax map 7 tax parcel 167 tax ID number 03-016277

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
x Other: Calvert County Historical Society

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
___ district	___ public	___ agriculture	Contributing
X building(s)	X private	___ landscape	Noncontributing
___ structure	___ both	___ commerce/trade	2
___ site		___ defense	___ buildings
___ object		X domestic	___ sites
		___ education	___ structures
		___ funerary	___ objects
		___ government	2
		___ health care	___ Total
		___ industry	
		___ recreation/culture	
		___ religion	
		___ social	
		___ transportation	
		___ work in progress	
		___ unknown	
		___ vacant/not in use	
		___ other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Royle House is located near the historic town center of Owings, a rural settlement in Calvert County. The house is set by the original alignment of Solomon's Island Road, and is proximate to other residences in Owings dating to the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The primary structure on the property, a one and a half story Craftsman-style bungalow, is set within a well-defined residential setting. Also located on the property is a small gabled garage.

The house was constructed in 1920 (the date is identified in both property records as well as inscribed in the plaster of a living room wall). The house features the ground-hugging form characteristic of the bungalow house type; furthermore, the building's one and a half story-height and three-bay width are also typical of many bungalows. The buildings side-gable roof transitions to a low pitch over the recessed front porch space, which defines the building's primary or eastern façade. In addition to the front porch, the house also has a small, shed roof entrance on the northern façade.

The front or eastern façade of the building is distinguished by a moderately pitched roof, which is covered by asphalt shingles and is interrupted by a symmetrically placed gable front dormer. The dormer contains three windows, placed closely together in a symmetrical fashion, and is decorated by overhanging eaves with cornice returns. The first floor of the front façade has a recessed porch, which shelters the building's central entrance. The southern portion of the front porch is enclosed. The enclosed portion of the porch has a band of three windows on the northern and southern walls. The open portion of the porch has a small open wall. The porch roof is supported by two pairs of original wood Tuscan columns. The central entrance is flanked on either side by window openings each containing three sets of windows (which also appeared to have been installed at a later date). The façade is covered with replacement vinyl siding, and the windows are also vinyl replacements (which maintain the original 1/1 sash configuration). The wooden door of the central entrance is partially obscured by a clear storm door. The entrance is reached by a set of concrete steps that lead up to the porch. The façade also displays a concrete block foundation. Obscuring the porch foundation is a row of shrubs and ivy.

The fenestration on the north elevation is symmetrical, with a pair of 1/1 vinyl-clad sash windows crowning two pairs of windows and a single central window. Also, there is a window at the far west side of the façade. A small enclosed shed roof entryway projects from the northern elevation.

The west elevation includes a single entrance (paneled wood door with a single pane of glass) set slightly off-center, with an asymmetrical placement of three windows.

The building's south elevation possesses similar fenestration, materials and massing of the north elevation. A small grassy space with a rusticated concrete block retaining wall, set against the elevation, indicates the location of a former driveway. The property also has a small gable-front garage located north of the primary residence. This building is of concrete block construction, and features a gabled roof covered with asphalt

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shingles and two sets of swinging wooden garage doors. The extant foundation of another garage building, which was converted into medical office by Dr. Hugh Ward, is located directly southwest of the residence.

The property displays mature tree cover to the south and west of the property, which forms a distinct visual barrier. The property displays several mature deciduous trees in the back yard, and ivy and bush cover can be found in the front yard.

The primary entrance includes a wood door, decorated with a single pane of glass, which retains its original hardware and opens into an extended entryway. The interior, with the exception of the kitchen, displays wood floors (no subflooring was used). Many corners in the interior featured a machine-cut spindled corner guard. The interior doorway has plain wood trim. The entryway is flanked to the south by a pair of wooden Tuscan columns, set upon a low wooden shelf with glass doors. This arrangement is mirrored on the western portion of the entryway. To the south of the entryway, the pairs of columns open up into a living space, which displays plain wood trim on the plaster ceiling, and a pair of windows. The living space is extended into the former open porch space, which now displays windows on all three sides, and the original tongue and groove siding of the porch space. The entryway continues into a narrow hallway, which displays a wooden door leading to the basement, and continues west towards another small corridor and an entryway, and terminates with an exterior doorway on the western façade, matching the doorway on the eastern façade.

To the north of the entryway, an open entry with wood trim opens up into a dining room space, which has a full length glass door and closet in the southwestern corner of the room. The dining room also retains its simple wood trim on the ceiling corners. The dining room opens up through a wooden door into the kitchen, which has linoleum flooring, and a tongue-and-groove covered cabinet. Adjoining the kitchen is a small mud room, which is located on the north side of the building and is connected to a narrow corridor. This corridor opens into a small bathroom (which is original to the building) on the west, and into a narrow stairway on the east. Beyond an exterior entrance on the western façade, the corridor opens into a newly renovated bathroom (formerly the medical office's waiting room). At the building's primary entrance on the south, the corridor opens into a small bedroom (formerly the medical office's examining room). A narrow set of stairs leads to a small open corridor on the second floor, which opens up directly into a small bedroom space set within the exterior dormer. The hallway leads on the north and south to bedrooms, which are connected by a narrow hallway and renovated bathroom on the western portion of the floor, newly added in what was a wood closet. Walls along the east and west side of the upper story are angled toward the ceiling due to the building's low roofline, and the ceilings are lower than those on the first floor. No wood trim was found in the building's upper story.

Alterations

Alterations made to the building during the 1930s and 1940s include the enclosure of a portion of the original front porch, and the enclosure of a side entrance. Alterations within the past fifty years include the removal of

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the small garage, the application of vinyl siding to the exterior, the replacement of original wood sash windows with vinyl windows, and the replacement of the metal roof.

Interior alterations, which were also made during the 1930s and 1940s, include the extension of the living room on the southern façade (which now occupies a portion of the original porch), and alterations to the first floor bathroom (which included the widening of the original pantry). Alterations made to the building within the last fifty years include the installation of a second bathroom on the first floor (proximate to the first floor bedroom), the remodeling of the original first floor bathroom, and the installation of ceiling fans.

Other alterations within the past fifty years include the addition and replacement of landscape elements, including the removal of a row of snowball bushes in the state road easement, and the planting of a large holly tree near the garage (which came from the present owner's grandmother's home in New Jersey). In addition, a large elm, which had been attacked by elm leaf beetles, in the front of the property, was replaced by a maple tree

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1920

Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates 1920

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Royle House is significant for its architecture as a representation of a Craftsman-style bungalow in Calvert County. The bungalow is an early twentieth century building type associated with early suburbanization. In addition, many bungalows similar to this building were constructed from plan books or mail order assembly kits. The visual character of rural communities was transformed by such standardized production. This site displays outbuildings and landscape features associated with its construction and period of significance. This building is also associated with both the Owings family and Dr. Hugh Ward, both of whom played important roles in local history.

Narrative History

The house was originally built by Robert Magruder and his wife, Eva Lina Owings Prout, in 1920. Before her marriage, the widowed Eva Lina Owings Prout had raised her two daughters, Ringgold and Vivian, at her parent's house nearby. She married Robert Magruder in 1920 when her daughters were away at college. The date 1920 is carved into the plaster of the dining room china closet. Eva Lina Owings Prout Magruder died in 1926, and Robert Magruder died in 1927. In 1929, the property was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Ward, who had recently married. Dr. Ward began a general medical practice in the house, and continued to occupy the property with his growing family until approximately 1947. In 1931, Dr. Ward purchased adjacent land which extends to Hall's Creek. Successive ownership after the Ward family includes the Gibson family, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Bowen, and Milton and Olive King, who sold the property in 1959 to the Royle family.

Important Persons

Eva Lina Owings Prout Magruder grew up next to the Royle House, at the estate of the Owings family (set directly to the southwest of the Royle House). The Owings family played an important role in the development of Owings. Eva Lina Owings Prout Magruder's father, Harry Owings, played an important role in the local agricultural economy as the owner of a large farm, and worked for the Chesapeake Beach Railroad Company as a station agent. Owings was an early railroad stop in Calvert County, and Harry

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Owings acted as a real estate agent in the development of many early twentieth century residences in Owings, which are similar in character to the Royle House.

Dr. Hugh Ward practiced as a country family doctor in Owings for 46 years and delivered over 5,000 babies. Dr. Ward had an important role in the development and daily community life of Owings. Dr. Ward was a well-known figure, and the establishment of his medical practice played an important role in the local area. Dr. Ward served as a "country doctor" who, rather than specializing in a particular field, served as a general practitioner who welcomed patients into his house. Such personal relationships are rarely seen in the contemporary medical profession.

Architecture and Community Planning

The Royle House is also significant as a representative example of Craftsman-style bungalow architecture of the early twentieth century. Bungalows were frequently constructed with mail-order kits, mass-produced plans, and pre-cut building materials, often delivered by train. Bungalows were often set low to the ground, and featured open interior plans and wide front porches (both of which accentuated simplicity of design and facilitated the flow of fresh air to prevent the spread of tuberculosis). The popular house form was part of a historic and architectural trend of suburban residential architecture in the early twentieth century, which was responsible for the rapid construction of large suburbs surrounding cities such as Baltimore, and for more dense settlement of rural centers located along major roadways. The design trend of suburban residential architecture, like the Royle House, was reflective of the era's progressive ideals.¹

Suburbanization in the twentieth century was a primary goal of progressive reform, and a continuation of earlier nineteenth-century efforts to correct perceived flaws in urban tenement housing. Such new settlement patterns were ultimately built upon a mixture of social reform, industrial technology (in mass production of plans and materials), and the promise of traditional agrarian independence. Accordingly, the design of early suburban housing often recalled traditional forms while reflecting new technological advances (such as the automobile). The Royle house displays a distinct relationship to the roadside, as well as an early automobile garage. The development of Owings as a local center and transportation node made the location of Dr. Ward's medical practice particularly convenient.

Builders and promoters of early suburban settlement used rural landscapes (much of it former agricultural land) as a means of promising individual freedom to a mass audience. Early suburban housing (and later mid-twentieth-century successors) was sold as natural and healthy antidotes to a crowded and urbanized industrial life.²

¹ Baxandall, Rosalyn and Elizabeth Ewen *Picture Windows: How the Suburbs Happened* (New York: Basic Books) 2000. 37

² Wright, Gwendolyn. *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America*. (New York: Pantheon Books). 1981. 106

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The Royle House displays many natural elements which allow it to be defined as an example of early suburban-style housing. The Royle House's open front porch forms a relationship with original, historic and recent landscape features.

The Royle House is a fairly typical example of a bungalow which is often set low to the ground and accentuates horizontal rather than vertical qualities. They are generally one or one-and-a-half story structures, covered with a gable, side gable, or hipped roof, with deep overhanging, often bracketed eaves, with a front porch.³ Interior details often included built-in shelving and fixtures, and an open plan, features found in the Royle House example.

The Royle House is also significant for its association with figures important in local history, and for its representative qualities which relate both to the growing development of Owings and to the national architectural trend of suburbanized housing in the early twentieth century.

³ Chase, Susan, David Ames and Rebecca Siders *Suburbanization in the Vicinity of Wilmington, Delaware, 1880-1950+/-*. (Newark, DE: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware). 1992 50

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1297

Baxandall, Rosalyn and Elizabeth Ewen *Picture Windows: How the Suburbs Happened* (New York: Basic Books) 2000.
Chase, Susan, David Ames and Rebecca Siders *Suburbanization in the Vicinity of Wilmington, Delaware, 1880-1950+/-*.
(Newark, DE: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware). 1992
Lanier, Gabrielle M. & Bernard Herman *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes*
(Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press). 1982
Wright, Gwendolyn. *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America*. (New York: Pantheon Books). 1981
Owings Family File, Calvert Co Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.119
Acreage of historical setting 1.119
Quadrangle name North Beach

Quadrangle scale: 1:240000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the surveyed property is marked as Tax Map 7, Parcel 167. The existing Parcel is concurrent with the historic setting, and includes character-defining resources and setting which relate to the property's construction and evolution.

11. Form Prepared by

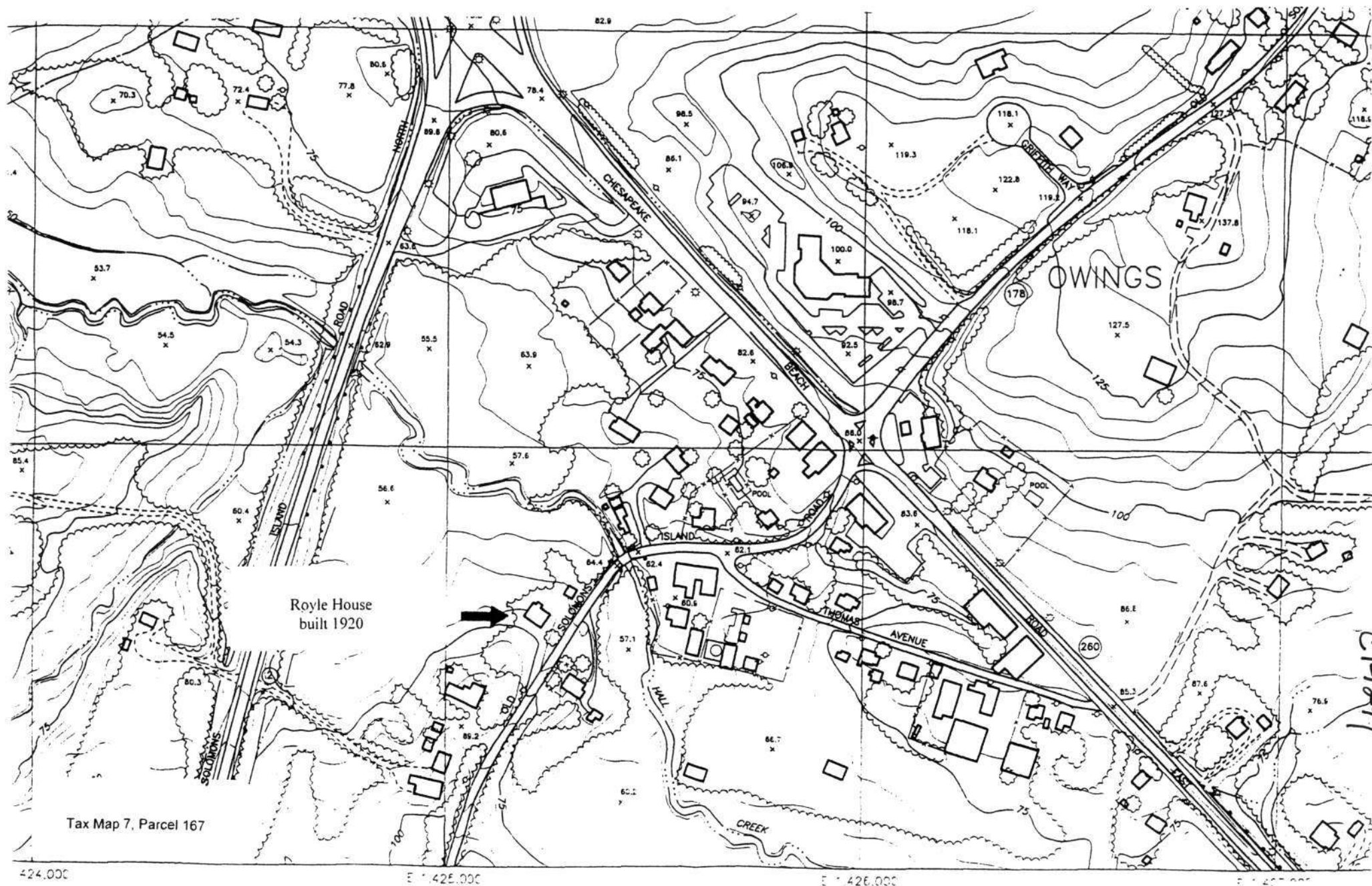
name/title	Caleb Christopher, Architectural Historian, revised by Craig Tuminaro, Architectural Historian		
organization	URS Corporation	date	3.1.03, 5.11.04
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Road, Suite 101	telephone	301.258.5897
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.


return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Tax Map 7, Parcel 167



CT-1297

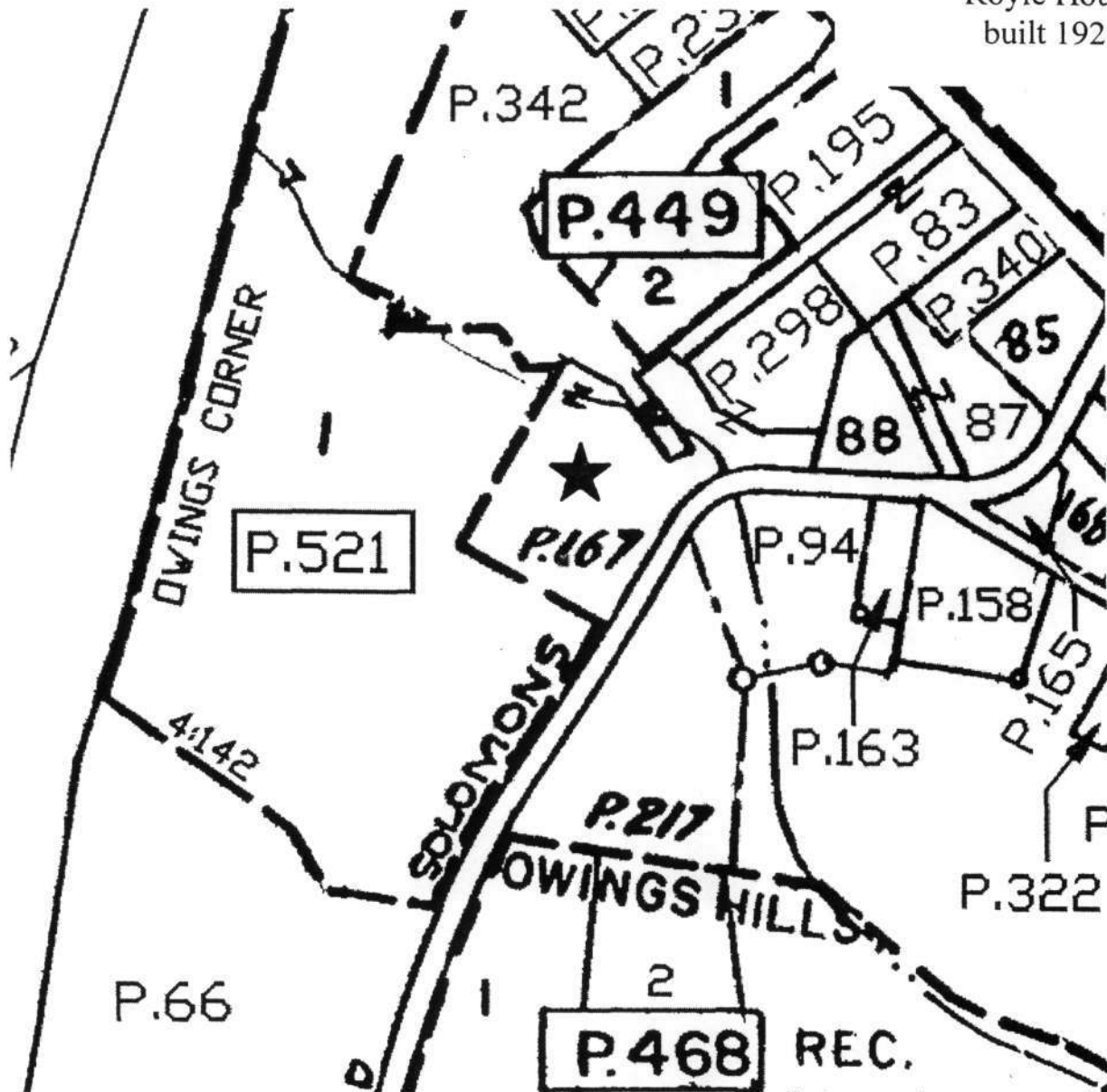
CT-1297

 <p>Real Property Information</p>	<p>Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Real Property System</p>
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[Go Back]

Account ID : 0503016277

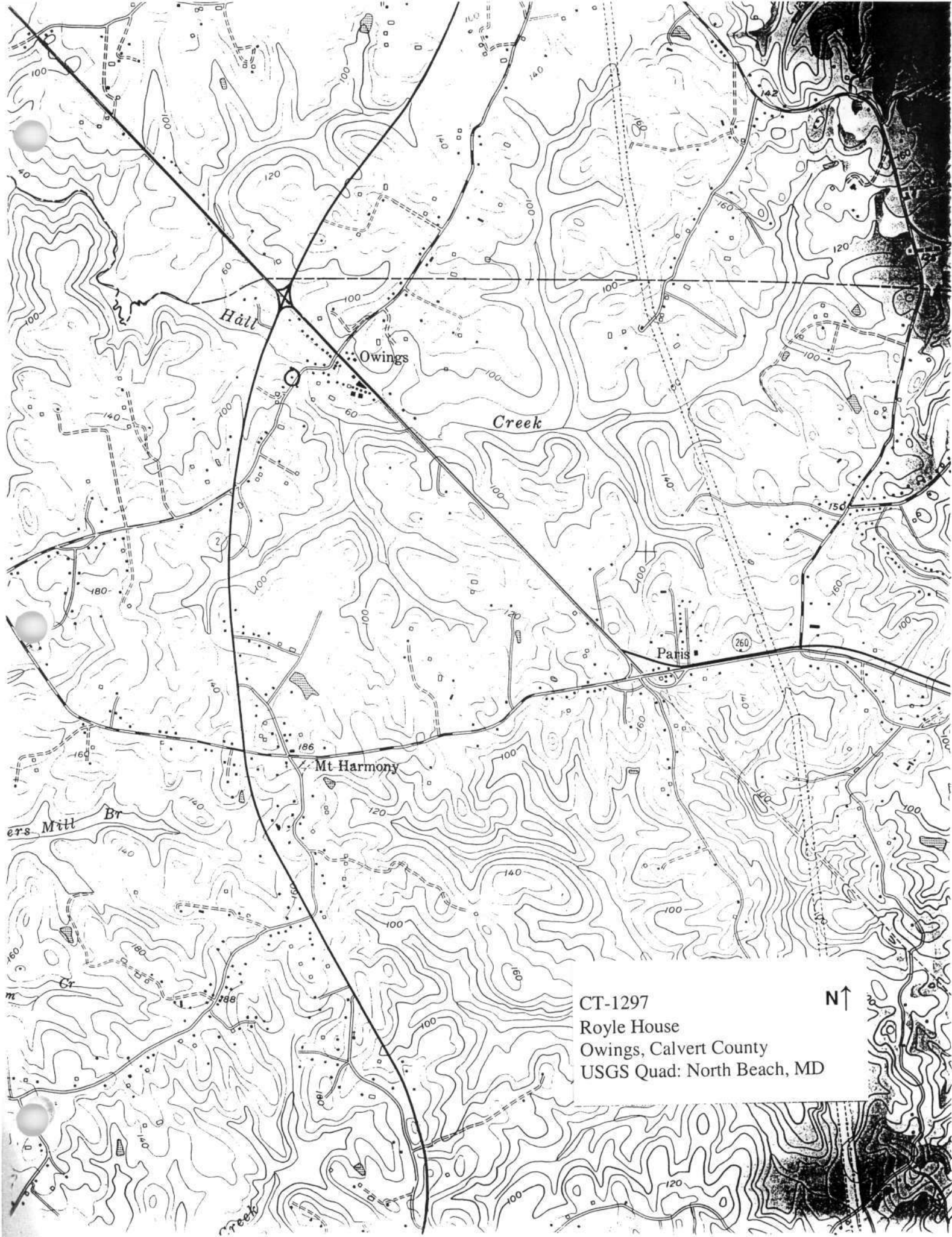
Royle House
built 1920



Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning © 2000.
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning web site at
www.mdp.state.md.us.

Tax Map 7, Parcel 167

12



CT-1297
Royle House
Owings, Calvert County
USGS Quad: North Beach, MD





5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 1 0062

003

CT-1297

ROYLE HOUSE

OWINGS,
CALVERT CO., MD

CAVER CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

SOUTH FACADE

65937

#1 of 6



5.65 BA 0ANXIN NNN- 4 0062

001

CT-1297

ROYLE HOUSE

CALVERT CO., MD

CALVERT CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

SOUTH FACADE

#2 OF 6

65935



5.65 BA DANXIN NNN- 6 0062

002

CT-1297

ROYLE HOUSE

CALVERT CO., MD

CALEB CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: NO STRPO

EAST ELEVATION

3 of 6

65936



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 1 0062

004

CT-1297

ROYLE HOUSE

CALVERT CO., MD

CLAUDE CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE. MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

#4 of 6

65938



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 2 0062

010

CT-1297

ROYLE HOUSE

CALVERT CO., MD

CALDER CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE. MD SHPO

VIEW OF GARAGE

5 OF 6

65944



5.65 BA 0ANXIN NNN- 6 0062

006

CT - 1297

BOYLE HOUSE

CALVERT CO., MD

CALDER CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

INTERIOR - LIVING /
DINING ROOM

6 OF 6

65940